**Sale of Stationery to the Government Officers**

311. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that DOP&T issued two Office Memorandum on 19th August, 1987 and 11th April, 1994 authorising Super Bazar and NCCF to sell stationery and other items to the Government offices giving relaxation to certain provisions of GFRs without the prior approval of the Ministry of Finance;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether there is any proposal to investigate the matter and to bring before the law the guilty officials responsible for issuing those OMs; and

(d) the steps taken to revoke those OMs forthwith?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) to (c) Instructions were issued in July, 1981, in consultation with Ministry of Finance, making it mandatory for Central Government Departments/bodies controlled or financed by the Central Government to make local purchase of stationery and other items from Kendriya Bhandar. Instructions issued in 1987 and 1994 were merely to bring Super Bazar and NCCF also under the purview of this arrangement.

(d) The provisions of O.M. dated 14.7.1981 are under review and a decision will be taken soon.

**Growth rate for Tenth Five Year Plan**

312. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the approved 8 per cent GDP growth rate estimated during the Tenth Five Year Plan (2002- 2007) is realistic in view of the past experience of the Ninth Plan and midterm Reserve Bank of India review forecasting a GDP of only 5.5 per cent as against 6.6 per cent forecast earlier;

(b) if so, what special efforts Government propose to make during Tenth Plan period to achieve 8 per cent GDP; and

(c) what were the reasons for low GDP growth during the Ninth Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) The Tenth Five Year Plan (2002-2007) is yet to be approved by the National Development Council.

(c) The main reasons for law GDP growth during the Ninth Plan are poor performance in agriculture and manufacturing sectors and shortfall in public investment.

**People below poverty line**

†313. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of persons living Below Poverty Line (BPL) during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) the norms fixed for determining persons living Below Poverty Line;

(c) whether similar standards exist for persons living above the poverty line; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefore?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) The Planning Commission estimates poverty at national and state level from the large sample surveys on consumer expenditure conducted by the National Sample Survey Organization (NSSO) at an interval of approximately five years. The latest such survey was conducted in 1999-2000 (NSS 55th Round). The data from the lastest large survey of the 55th Round indicate the number of persons living below the poverty line in the country in 1999-2000 as 260.25 million. As such, the estimates of poverty during the last three years are not available.

(b) The Planning Commission uses a poverty line based on per

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.